



Italian Defense in Action: Airdrops for the Civilian Population of Gaza

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The Italian Government has decided to intensify its humanitarian commitment in favor of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, severely affected by the ongoing conflict in the region. With authorization from the Minister of Defense Guido Crosetto, a special Defense unit has been activated to carry out airdrops of essential goods, destined for Palestinian families in emergency conditions. The mission, named *Solidarity Path Operation 2*, will be conducted through the combined use of assets from the Italian Army and the Air Force.

Specifically, the mission involves the use of C-130J transport aircraft from the Air Force, capable of conducting air drops of special containers with essential aid: food, drinking water, medical and hygiene supplies. The Italian Army, for its part, will be responsible for the logistical preparation of the loads, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), which will handle the procurement and dispatch of the necessary goods.

The operational launch is expected to begin in the coming days, immediately after the dispatch of an "advance party," a reconnaissance and coordination team that will operate in Jordan in collaboration with local authorities and the Armed Forces of the Hashemite Kingdom. The first airdrops are scheduled to start from August 9, 2025.

A Consistent and Continuous Humanitarian Commitment

The *Solidarity Path Operation 2* is part of a broader and consistent commitment by the Italian Defense to support the Palestinian population. As emphasized by Minister Crosetto, "the Italian Defense continues to be at the forefront in ensuring, with speed and efficiency, all possible humanitarian support." It is, in fact, the continuation of a humanitarian strategy articulated on multiple levels and operational tools.

In previous months, the Italian Defense had already activated numerous relief initiatives. The hospital ship *Vulcano* of the Navy was sent to the eastern Mediterranean to provide medical assistance to wounded individuals from Gaza. The onboard medical staff treated numerous patients, playing a crucial role in relieving local hospital facilities, which were on the brink of collapse.

Simultaneously, the Air Force conducted special flights to evacuate severely ill or injured children, along with their families, and transport them to Italy, where they could receive advanced hospital care. The Army was also involved in previous operations, such as the *Air-Bridge for Gaza*, employing military helicopters to deliver medicines and health supplies to otherwise unreachable areas.

These interventions, carried out in full compliance with international humanitarian law and in coordination with local and international actors, are a testament to a constant commitment, based not on strategic-military logic, but on ethical and civil principles.



Defense in the Service of Solidarity: Values Without Borders

“Every intervention by the Defense,” stated Minister Guido Crosetto, “is based on a clear principle: we cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of innocent civilians.” This phrase encapsulates the profound meaning of the humanitarian operations promoted by Italy in contexts of war and crisis. The goal is to provide concrete and immediate help to affected people, regardless of political or geographical affiliations, offering skills, means, and personnel.

The Italian military involved in these missions act with a spirit of service, determination, and a deep sense of duty. Every load dropped, every patient saved, every logistical support provided is the result of efficient organization but also the will to “do the right thing” in a world increasingly marked by divisions and conflicts.

The mission *Solidarity Path Operation 2* therefore represents not only a humanitarian action but also a political act in the highest sense: affirming that solidarity can and must be a component of foreign policy and the military projection of a democratic state.

In the coming days, another special flight is expected to transport more patients from Gaza to Italy, confirming the continuity of a humanitarian bridge that ideally unites two peoples through concrete gestures of peace and solidarity.

With the new mission underway, Italy reaffirms its humanitarian vocation and the importance of Defense not only as a security tool but also as a resource for peace and human dignity. In times of wars and disasters, actions like these speak louder than words.



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